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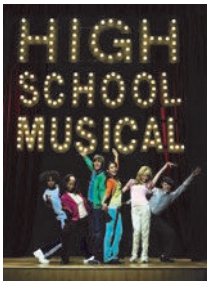
○ ISSUE 39 | ○ VOLUME 5

# Community *notes*

## River Hill Theatre Arts Department presents "High School Musical"

The River Hill High School Theatre Arts Department proudly presents *Disney's High School Musical*. This live stage rendition of the 2006 Disney film promises to have the entire audience singing and dancing along.

A popular high school basketball star and a shy, academically gifted newcomer discover they share a secret passion for singing. When they sign up together to audition for the lead roles in the school musical, it threatens East High's rigid social order and sends their peers into an uproar.



All performances will be held in the River Hill High School auditorium, 12101 Route 108, Clarksville. The performance dates are March 5, 6, and 7 at 7:00 p.m. and March 8 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$13 at the

door.

The advance ticket sales price (\$12) will be honored at the door if you bring a non-perishable food item. All food donations go to Howard County Food Bank.

Advance tickets are available online now via ["Seat yourself"](#). Tickets are also available at the RHHS Information Center, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Ask to see Virginia Jarvis; in front of the RHHS Dining Hall, Monday, March 2 through Friday, March 6 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and at the Box Office 90 minutes before curtain. If you have questions or need further information, contact Pam Land at [pland@hcpss.org](mailto:pland@hcpss.org) or 410-313-7120.

## Greeting

With each newsletter, I try to share cheerful, fun and informative news. This week, Howard County announced a new program to help qualified residents pay their water and sewer bill. We are a community that cares for our friends and neighbors in many ways, and the story on page 2 is one way we can help one another.

*Manykay*

## "A Century of Black Life, History and Culture"

The National Pan-Hellenic Council of Howard County in partnership with the Howard County Branch of the N.A.A.C.P., and the Howard County Public School System invites you to this year's Black History Expo.

"A Century of Black Life, History and Culture" is the theme for this year's celebration being held at Wilde Lake High School in Columbia, Maryland on Saturday, February 28, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. The expo provides educational experiences that foster increased awareness, expanded knowledge and appreciation of African Americans who have made significant contributions to our history, society and culture. This event has free admission and there will be lots of exhibits, vendors, concessions and live entertainment in celebration of Black History.

## John Milton Wesley Performs This Sunday

The Town Center Community Association invites the public to a performance by long time Columbia resident John Milton Wesley on Sunday, March 1, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Historic Oakland Manor (5430 Vantage Point Road, Columbia). Mr. Wesley's performance features an interactive journey through black history with live music, combining Jazz, R&B, Latin and other genres to enlighten and entertain the audience.

The event is free but registration is preferred. Please call 410-730-4744 or email [tc.communityasst@gmail.com](mailto:tc.communityasst@gmail.com).

## Howard County Presents Pedestrian Master Plan

The Howard County Office of Transportation invites the public to join them at community meetings to gather input regarding improvements to the Pedestrian Master Plan, also known as WalkHoward. The purpose of WalkHoward is to guide the development of a plan to make Howard County a more walkable and sustainable community. The plan continues efforts to build a system of ADA accessible sidewalks, pathways, bus stops and roadway crossings to make walking easy and safe.

The Office will host two meetings; the first will take place on Monday, March 16 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Slayton House in Wilde Lake Village Center, 10400 Cross Fox Lane in Columbia. A second meeting will be held on Saturday, March 28 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road in Laurel.

Those unable to attend either meeting may also provide input online at [www.walkhoward.org](http://www.walkhoward.org); which includes an interactive "crowdsourcing" map.

To request a sign language interpreter or other accommodations to attend the meetings, please call the Department of Citizen Services at 410-313-6400. For more information about WalkHoward, visit [www.walkhoward.org](http://www.walkhoward.org) or contact the office at 410-313-3130.

## Now Playing...

Rep Stage at Howard Community College presents *Circle Mirror Transformation* beginning Wednesday, March 4 through Sunday, March 22 at the Studio Theatre.

When a group of small town residents enrolled in a community center drama class begin to experiment with seemingly harmless theatre games, their lives are changed. Click [here](#) to learn more about the production and to purchase tickets.



They're creepy and they're kooky...

Mysterious and spooky...

Enjoy a fun and hilarious production of *The Addams Family* at Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia now through Sunday, April 19.

Wednesday Addams is all grown up and has fallen in love with a young man from 'normal' family. It's pandemonium when the Addamses host Wednesday's boyfriend and his parents for dinner! Visit the [website](#) for all the details, great photos and to purchase tickets.

## "H<sub>2</sub>O Help to Others"

Howard County unveiled a new program, "H<sub>2</sub>O Help to Others," for County residents who need assistance in paying water and sewer bills. The program will be funded by residential customers who voluntarily round up their bills to the nearest dollar.

Residential water and sewer customers will be able to make donations to the fund starting with the March bill. On those bills, customers will see a check box to opt in to participate by rounding up their payments to the next highest dollar. Residents will also be given options to make on-going, or one-time, donations to the program.

The funding will be used to assist customers with delinquent accounts who are facing disconnection of service. The County has selected a non-profit, Family and Children Services, to administer the program and verify the need of those seeking assistance.

Legislation to authorize the program was approved by the Howard County Council in October, and the implementation details have been in development since then.

In a typical year, the County's Department of Public Works Bureau of Utilities will disconnect more than 600 accounts with past due amounts. The average residential water and sewer bill in Howard County is \$160 per quarter. The Department of Public Works has agreed to set aside at least \$50,000 for the program.

Those residential customers facing disconnection of water services should contact the County's Department of Finance Water and Sewer Division at 410-313-2058.

## Journey Leadership Workshop

The Women's Giving Circle of Howard County will sponsor the Journey leadership workshop, July 12-18, 2015. This overnight, week-long program conducted by Maryland Leadership Workshops is for girls whom are presently in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and live in Howard County is an incredible experience filled with team-, skill- and confidence-building activities. The program is celebrating its tenth year and is proud of each and every one of its 276 graduates!



Applications are available [online](#). Scholarships are also available for the program. Please submit your application by Sunday, March 15.

## County Executive Schedules Second Budget Hearing

County Executive Allan H. Kittleman will hold his second Citizens' Budget Hearing for the FY2016 budget cycle on Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Banneker Room of the George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City.

Residents can sign-up [online](#) to give testimony at the hearing or submit written testimony. All testimony is considered public information and, as such, is subject to the Maryland Public Information Act.



Residents who do not wish to sign-up online will still be able to sign-up in person on the night of the public hearing beginning at 6:00 p.m. Speakers must sign up individually, and one person may not sign up for several testifiers. During past budget hearings, oral testimony has been limited to three minutes.

If requested seven days prior to the Citizen's Budget Hearing, an interpreter for people who are deaf or hard of hearing will be available. Call the Department of Citizen Services at 410-313-6400 (voice) or use Relay (7-1-1) between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. If you require additional accommodations to attend the Hearing or for more information, contact the Budget Office at 410-313-2077.

## Family Events at the BMA

The Baltimore Museum of Art offers "Free Family Sundays", a year-round program featuring activities that the entire family will enjoy.

The theme for March is "Telling Stories." Each Sunday will offer an opportunity to participate in art-making workshops, and the last Sunday of the month will include an informal chat with a gallery educator about a single work of art in the collection. Family workshops are held in the Temporary Education Classroom on the 2nd floor.

### "Telling Stories" Schedule

March 1: Stories in Silver  
March 8: Serpent Tales  
March 15: Set the Scene  
March 22: Personal Stories  
March 29: Object Lesson: Margaret Tafoya's *Wedding Jar*

Visit the [BMA website](#) for hours, directions & parking and program information.

## Your Opinion is Needed

HC Drug Free asks for your help in completing a simple online survey. Maryland residents who are at least 18 years old are encouraged to participate. The data collected will help educate the community on the knowledge, perceptions and attitudes about prescription opioids and heroin.

Click [here](#) to take the survey and enter to win a \$50.00 gift card. The survey is being conducted by University of Maryland Baltimore in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Behavioral Health Administration.

## Reminders

### Bain Center Closed for Emergency Repairs

The Bain Center at 5470 Ruth Keeton Way in Columbia remains closed while damage caused by a burst water pipe is repaired. All scheduled activities at the Bain Center have been cancelled. All other Howard County senior centers are open and operating as normal. To find a senior center near you, visit the Department's Office on Aging [website](#). For questions or more information, contact the Office on Aging at 410-313-6410 (voice/relay) or email [aging@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:aging@howardcountymd.gov).

### Tax Preparation Assistance

Making Change Howard County is hosting free tax preparation for qualified persons at the Multi-use Service Center (9900 Washington Boulevard, Laurel) through April 11, 2015. Visit the [website](#) for more information and to book an appointment.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide in conjunction with the IRS, offers free assistance to low & moderate income taxpayers, with special attention to those 60 and older. Appointments are required. For more information and other resources, visit the [webpage](#) for the latest edition of Senior Connection.

### Silas Craft Collegians Fundraiser

Howard Community College Foundation hosts annual fundraiser in support of the Silas Craft Collegians on Monday, March 9, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Hunan Manor (7091 Deepage Drive, Columbia). Event tickets and raffle tickets for a Pandora bracelet are available [online](#).



Mary Kay Sigaty

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